

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1062

Introduced by Assembly Member Bermudez

February 20, 2003

An act to add Section 131 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1062, as introduced, Bermudez. Health care coverage: Integrated Child and Youth Health Program.

Existing law provides for the creation of various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility requirements. These programs include the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, administered by the State Department of Health Services, the Healthy Families Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and the Medi-Cal program, administered by the department. Each county is responsible for Medi-Cal eligibility determinations.

This bill would require the department to integrate the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program, the Medi-Cal program, and the Healthy Families Program into one Integrated Child and Youth Health Program. The bill would require the department to develop a plan for the integration of these programs on or before April 1, 2004, and implement the plan, subject to certain conditions, on or before January 1, 2005.

The bill would require the department to seek any federal waiver or approval necessary to maximize all federal funds available for purposes of the programs and seek the amendment of the state's waiver to the State Child Health Insurance Program to move the existing Healthy

Families Program from an insurance model to a public health model in the State Department of Health Services. The bill would provide that it would only be implemented if, and to the extent that, any federal waiver and approval that is necessary to implement integration of the programs under these provisions is obtained.

The bill would make eligible for coverage under the program any uninsured child under the age of 19 years who is a resident of the state with a household income that is equal to or less than 250% of the federal poverty level and, for one year, any infant born to a woman receiving benefits under the Medi-Cal program. The bill would specify procedures for application to the program, the issuance of a health access card, annual renewal, and provider participation in the program.

By modifying the Medi-Cal eligibility determination process, this bill would increase the responsibilities of counties in the administration of the Medi-Cal program, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) According to the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research,
4 one million, that is nearly 1 in 10, California children are
5 uninsured.

6 (2) Two out of three, or 66 percent, of all uninsured children are
7 eligible for state health programs.



1 (3) Presently, California has a patchwork of programs and
2 difficulty in the enrollment processes, and the lack of eligibility for
3 a full range of medical services limits access to and continuity of
4 care.

5 (b) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to
6 develop an integrated children and youth health system that is
7 accessible, comprehensive, and cost-effective and that is
8 user-friendly for families, providers, and payers.

9 SEC. 2. Section 131 is added to the Health and Safety Code,
10 to read:

11 131. (a) The department shall integrate the Child Health and
12 Disability Prevention Program, the Medi-Cal program, and, in
13 coordination with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, the
14 Healthy Families Program, into one Integrated Child and Youth
15 Health Program.

16 (b) (1) For purposes of this section, the department shall seek
17 any federal waiver and approval that is necessary to maximize
18 federal financial participation and funding, including, but not
19 limited to, federal funds available under the State Children's
20 Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) (21 U.S.C. Sec. 1397aa et
21 seq.), and the medicaid program, and available for providing early
22 and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment services.

23 (2) The department shall immediately amend its waiver to the
24 State Child Health Insurance Program to move the existing
25 Healthy Families Program from an insurance model to a public
26 health model in the State Department of Health Services.

27 (c) This section shall only be implemented if, and to the extent
28 that, any federal waiver and approval that is necessary to
29 implement integration of the programs under this section is
30 obtained pursuant to subdivision (b).

31 (d) The department shall develop a plan for the integration of
32 programs pursuant to this section on or before April 1, 2004, and
33 implement the plan, subject to the requirements of subdivisions (b)
34 and (c), on or before January 1, 2005. Until the integration process
35 is complete, children shall be provided services under the separate
36 programs, as necessary.

37 (e) Eligibility under the Integrated Child and Youth Health
38 Program established under this section shall be as follows:

1 (1) Any uninsured child under the age of 19 years who is a
2 California resident and who has family income equal to or less than
3 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

4 (2) Any infant born to a woman receiving benefits under the
5 Medi-Cal program is immediately eligible for coverage under the
6 Integrated Child and Youth Health Program for one year.

7 (f) The Integrated Child and Youth Health Program shall use a
8 simplified application modeled after the Child Health and
9 Disability Prevention Program application, which shall be
10 available at health provider locations.

11 (g) (1) The department shall issue to eligible families a health
12 access card that shall be valid for one year and allow participants
13 to access program services from any eligible provider. A family
14 may renew the card annually if the family continues to meet
15 financial eligibility criteria as provided in subdivision (e).

16 (2) All Medi-Cal providers are eligible providers under the
17 Integrated Child and Youth Health Program.

18 (h) The Integrated Child and Youth Health Program shall
19 include all health services and benefits available under the three
20 separate programs. Additional benefits may be added if those
21 benefits are recognized by the appropriate medical specialties as
22 the standard of care for age appropriate diagnostic and treatment
23 services for children.

24 SEC. 3. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government
25 Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this
26 act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local
27 agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant
28 to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title
29 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for
30 reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000),
31 reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims
32 Fund.

